## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A call processing method, comprising the steps of:
- operating a telephone switch to detect receipt
- of an incoming telephone call on a subscriber telephone
- 4 line;
- in response to detecting an incoming telephone
- 6 call on the subscriber telephone line, operating the
- 7 telephone switch to transmit a message to a service
- 8 control point indicating receipt of a call on the
- 9 subscriber telephone line;
- operating the service control point to transmit
- a message to a first computer in response to the message
- transmitted by said telephone switch; and
- operating the first computer to select a first
- 14 party to service the incoming call.
  - 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - operating the first computer to determine the
  - 3 availability of the first party to service the incoming
  - 4 call by contacting a second computer, the second computer
  - 5 being associated with the first party.
  - 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the second computer
  - 2 is coupled to a first telephone device by a
  - 3 communications link which supports computer and telephone
  - 4 interaction, the step of operating the first computer to
  - 5 determine the availability of the first party including:

- obtaining telephone device status information from the second computer.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
- 2 operating the first computer to send call
- 3 related information to the second computer.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
- operating the first computer to send a first
- 3 telephone number corresponding to the first telephone
- device to the service control point; and
- operating the service control point to instruct
- the telephone switch to complete the incoming call using
- 7 the first telephone number as the destination telephone
- 8 number.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the first telephone
- 2 number is different from a telephone number used to route
- 3 the incoming call to said subscriber telephone line.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- operating the first computer to determine from
- a second computer if a telephone line associated with the
- 4 first party is busy.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein determining from the
- 2 second computer if the telephone line is busy includes
- 3 using a telephone application programming interface to
- 4 obtain telephone line status information.

- 1 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
- in response to detecting that said telephone
- 3 line is busy:
- 4 controlling the second computer to display a
- 5 plurality of call disposition options; and
- operating the first computer to receive call
- 7 disposition selection information from the second
- 8 computer system.
- 1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the received call
- disposition information includes a telephone number to
- which the incoming call should be completed, the method
- 4 further comprising the step of:
- 5 transmitting the received telephone number to
- 6 the service control point.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
- 2 operating the service control point to transmit
- 3 the received telephone number to the telephone switch;
- 4 and
- operating the telephone switch to complete the
- 6 call to the telephone line corresponding to the received
- 7 telephone number.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11, the method further
- 2 comprising:
- 3 transmitting call related data to a third
- 4 computer, the third computer being associated with a
- 5 party to whom the received telephone number corresponds.

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The method of claim 9, wherein the received call 1 13. disposition information includes a telephone number, the 2 method further comprising: 3 operating the first computer to use the 4 received telephone number to identify a third computer; 5 and 6 transmitting to the third computer call related 7 8 data. The method of claim 13, further comprising: 1 transmitting the received telephone number to 2 the service control point; 3 operating the service control point to transmit the received telephone number to the telephone switch; 5 6 and operating the telephone switch to complete the 7 call to the telephone line corresponding to the received telephone number. 9 A communications system comprising: 15. 1 a telephone switch including trigger circuitry 2 for detecting calls to a first telephone line on which a 3 trigger is set, a first telephone number being associated with the first telephone line; 5 a first subscriber telephone device coupled to 6 the telephone switch by the first telephone line; a first computer coupled to the first 8 subscriber telephone device by a communications link 9

which supports the transmission of TAPI signals between

- the first computer and the first subscriber telephone
- 12 device; and
- a second computer system coupled to the
- 14 telephone switch and to the first computer, the second
- computer including a routine for determining, as a
- function of telephone line status information obtained
- from the first computer, a telephone number to be used to
- complete the routing of calls to the first telephone line
- which are detected by said trigger circuitry.
  - 1 16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:
  - a service control point for coupling the
  - 3 telephone switch to the second computer system.
  - 1 17. The system of claim 15, where said trigger circuitry
  - 2 is terminating attempt trigger circuitry.
  - 1 18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:
  - a first Internet Protocol based computer
  - 3 network for coupling the first computer to the second
  - 4 computer.
  - 1 19. The system of claim 18, further comprising:
  - a second Internet Protocol based computer
  - 3 network for coupling the second computer to the service
  - 4 control point; and
  - 5 wherein the second computer system includes a
  - 6 routine for controlling the transmission of call related

- 7 data to the first computer system over said first
- 8 Internet Protocol based computer network.
- 1 20. The system of claim 19, further comprising;
- a signaling system seven communications link
- for coupling the service control point to said telephone
- 4 switch.
- 1 21. A communications method, comprising:
- operating a first computer to contact a second
- 3 computer to determine the status of a telephone line
- 4 coupled to the second computer system; and
- 5 performing a call routing operation as a
- function of the determined status of the telephone line
- 7 coupled to the second computer system.
- 1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein performing a call
- 2 routing operation includes:
- operating the first computer to supply a
- 4 telephone number to a service control point; and
- 5 routing an incoming call to a telephone line
- 6 identified by said telephone number.
- 1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein routing an incoming
- 2 call includes:
- operating the service control point to send a
- 4 message to a telephone switch to route the incoming call
- 5 using said telephone number.

- 1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising, prior to
- 2 operating the first computer to contact the second
- 3 computer:
- 4 triggering, in response to said incoming call,
- a terminating attempt trigger set on a first telephone
- 6 service subscriber line corresponding to a service
- 7 subscriber telephone number; and
- 8 contacting the service control point for call
- 9 processing instructions in response to triggering of the
- 10 terminating attempt trigger.
- 1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising, prior to
- 2 operating the first computer to contact the second
- 3 computer:
- 4 operating the service control point to transmit
- 5 a message including the service subscriber telephone
- 6 number to the first computer; and
- operating the first computer to select a party
- 8 to service said incoming call.
- 1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the step of
- 2 operating the first computer to supply a telephone number
- 3 to a service control point includes:
- 4 selecting as said telephone number to be
- 5 supplied to the service control point, a telephone number
- 6 corresponding to the party selected to service said
- 7 incoming call.